

How-To Guide to geographical location using AreaFinder

Purpose

This How-To Guide provides clear, step-by-step instructions on how to effectively use the AreaFinder app and follow GPHIN's guidelines for geographical location of epidemiological events in GPHIN products. The objective is to apply standardized name when reporting on events in GPHIN products, particularly the Daily Report. The guide is designed to ensure consistency, accuracy, and alignment with official Government of Canada and United Nations geolocation standards (M49), enabling the smooth implementation of automated workflows in the GPHIN Collaboration Hub.

Scope

This guide covers the following tasks:

- How to use the AreaFinder app to select the appropriate geographical location (continent, region, or country) when describing events to GPHIN products.
- The step-by-step process of applying the geolocation standards outlined in the Daily Report.
- Guidance on ensuring that country names, regional classifications, and geolocation attributes adhere to the official GoC and UN M49 standards.

Audience

This guide is intended for GPHIN analysts and epidemiologists.

General Guidelines

1. Country and Territory Names

- The names of countries and territories mentioned in **Daily Report** entries will follow the spelling (including accents) as recognized by the Government of Canada.
 - **Example:** Consider the following event from the **Daily Report** dated January 16, 2025:

According to the Government of Canada, the country name should be written as **Türkiye**:

3. **Türkiye:** According to media reports, 19 people who drank **contaminated alcohol** in Istanbul have died in the past 48 hours. A total of 65 people have been affected, and 43 of whom are still being treated in hospital. Among them were 26 foreigners. ([The New Arab](#))

Figure 1: DR entry #3 of 25-01-16

3. **Türkiye:** According to media reports, 19 people who drank **contaminated alcohol** in Istanbul have died in the past 48 hours. A total of 65 people have been affected, and 43 of whom are still being treated in hospital. Among them were 26 foreigners. ([The New Arab](#))

Figure 2: DR entry #3 of 25-01-16 corrected

2. Event reported by Public Health Agencies (e.g., WHO, PAHO, CDC, ECDC, GPEI, among others)

- Entries in the **Daily Report** will no longer be attributed to institutions but only to geolocalities.
 - **Example:** Consider the following event from the **Daily Report** dated January 28, 2025:

5. **PAHO:** According to the latest PAHO epidemiological update on **avian influenza H5N1** in the Americas, during 2024 alone and as of January 17, 2025, 68 human cases have been reported in Canada and the United States, of which 54 were reported between October 2024 and January 2025. Nine countries and territories in the Americas (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, the Falkland Islands, Mexico, Peru and the United States) have reported 1,451 outbreaks of avian influenza in birds and mammals during 2024. ([PAHO](#))

Figure 3: DR entry #5 of 25-01-28

This event will be attributed to **Americas**, as it is the shared region for the countries listed in the summary (shown below):

3. Attribution for Multiple Countries or Territories

- For entries involving multiple countries or territories, the attribution will follow the United Nations geoscheme M49 regions, or continents where applicable. If neither is possible, the entry will be attributed to **Multiregional** or **Worldwide** based on the following rules:

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3a. Single Region: If all affected locations are within one region, the name of that region will be assigned.

- **Example:** If the affected locations are Costa Rica and Panama, the event is assigned to **Central America**.

5. **Americas:** According to the latest PAHO epidemiological update on **avian influenza H5N1** in the Americas, during 2024 alone and as of January 17, 2025, 68 human cases have been reported in Canada and the United States, of which 54 were reported between October 2024 and January 2025. Nine countries and territories in the Americas (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, the Falkland Islands, Mexico, Peru and the United States) have reported 1,451 outbreaks of avian influenza in birds and mammals during 2024. ([PAHO](#))

Figure 4: DR entry #5 of 25-01-28 corrected



Figure 5: UN 22 region map

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- 3b. **Single Continent, Multiple Regions:** If affected locations span multiple regions within a single continent, the continent's name will be assigned.
 - **Example:** If the affected locations are Czechia, Germany, and Spain, the event is assigned to Europe.
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- 3c. **Multiregional:** If affected locations include two or more regions from different continents, the event will be considered Multiregional.
 - **Example:** If the affected locations are Morocco and Spain, the event is assigned to Multiregional.
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- 3d. **Worldwide:** If affected locations span all continents (excluding Antarctica), the event will be considered Worldwide.

- **Example:** If the affected locations are Canada, Iran, Mozambique, New Caledonia, and Switzerland, the event is assigned to **Worldwide**.

Using AreaFinder to report geolocations

- This application was created to assist the GPHIN team in verifying country and territory names according to current database standards and to help determine the appropriate level of geolocation for reporting.
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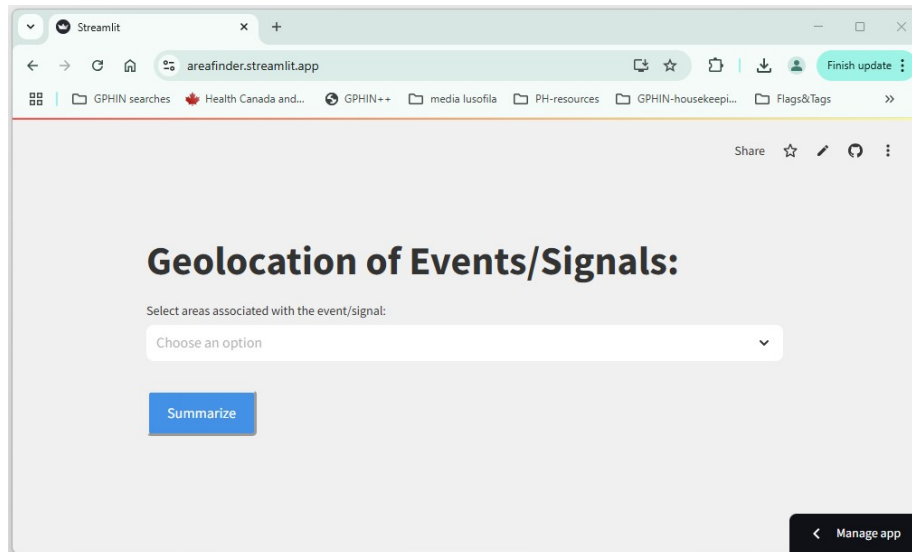


Figure 6: Open AreaFinder

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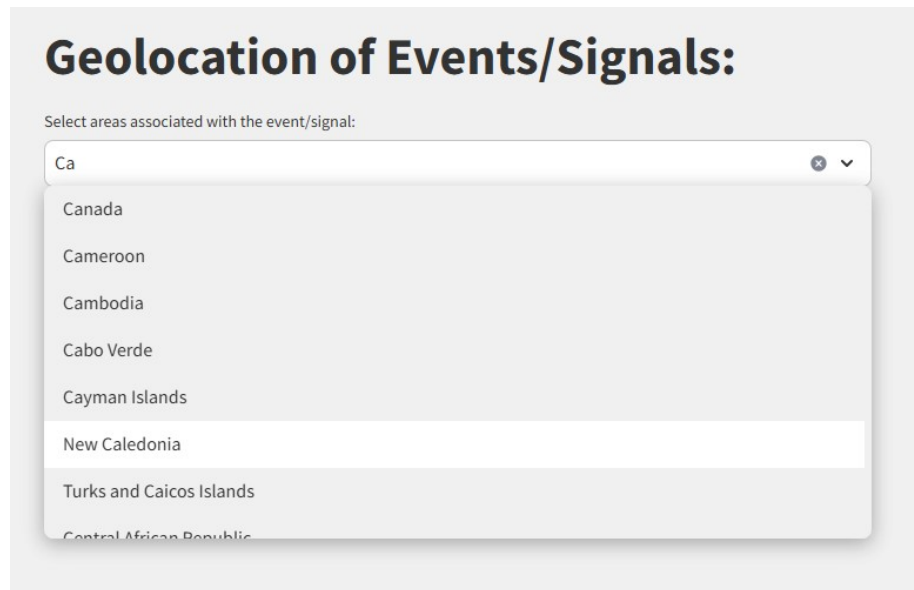


Figure 7: Open AreaFinder

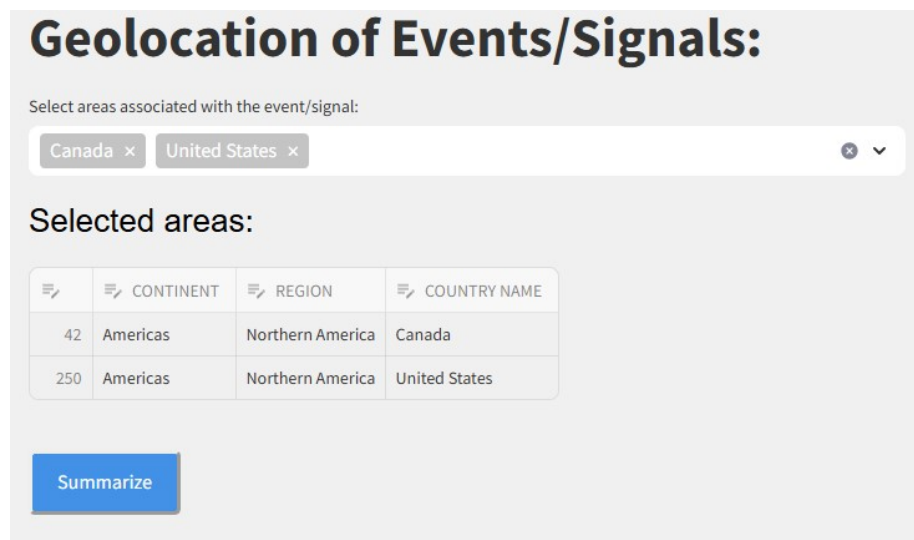


Figure 8: Open AreaFinder

Geolocation of Events/Signals:

Select areas associated with the event/signal:

Canada x United States x x v

Selected areas:

	CONTINENT	REGION	COUNTRY NAME
42	Americas	Northern America	Canada
250	Americas	Northern America	United States

Summarize

Affected Locations: Canada and United States

Report as: Northern America

Figure 9: Open AreaFinder